

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 12, 2005. Claims 2-10 are presented for examination. Claim 1 has been canceled, and its recitations incorporated into Claim 2; this action is taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 5-7 have been amended to correct claim dependency. Claims 2, 9 and 10 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

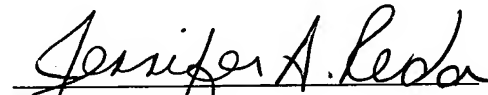
Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 2-4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended Claim 2 into independent form, and consequently this claim is seen to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-8 depend from Claim 2 and, therefore, also are seen to be in condition for allowance. In addition, independent Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and are also seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,701,384 (Fukuta). Claim 1 has been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer A. Reda".

Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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